

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Draft Funding Criteria
(revised 06/15/2007)

100 point scoring system

1. Applications will be comparatively scored to maximize number of students affected. Based on residential density within the approximately two-mile radius of affected schools and with potentially safe routes for walking and bicycling. (10 points)

2. Application addresses the "5Es:" Evaluation, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Engineering. If an activity could be included in more than one area, it shall be listed only once, in the most appropriate category. SRTS funding is intended to encourage new initiatives. However, consideration will be given to communities that have already established similar programs to encourage walking and bicycling to school. (50 points total)

a. Evaluation: Surveys and site visits to assess barriers to safe walking and biking. Surveys conducted after June 1, 2007 shall use standard forms prepared by the National Center for Safe Routes to School and partner organizations (see application guidelines for details). Follow-up

surveys must be conducted after the program has been implemented. (Affects both infrastructure and non-infrastructure) (10 points)

b. Education: Classroom or extra-curricular activities addressing safe biking and walking practices. (Examples: Bike rodeo by local police; special instructor for bike safety; pedestrian safety training.) (Non-infrastructure) (10 points)

c. Encouragement: Promotion of walking and biking through public relations and school events. Examples can include a walk- or bike-to-school day (or week), walking school bus or bike train, and assemblies focusing on safety and fitness issues. (Non-infrastructure) (10 points)

d. Enforcement: Identification by local officials of potentially dangerous driving habits, crime and bullying on streets near schools. Commitment by local law enforcement to address violations. Public relations campaign for local drivers. New signs if necessary. (Non-infrastructure; signs are infrastructure) (10 points)

e. Engineering: Physical changes such as construction and repairs to sidewalks and bike

routes, signs and traffic signals, and pavement marking. Includes identification and mapping of physical barriers, preliminary planning and engineering. (Infrastructure) (10 points)

2. Demonstrated community support for program: 40 points total

- a. Task force with broad representation of community stakeholders. (10 points)
- b. Comprehensive SRTS "travel" or "action" plan. (10 points)
- c. Documentation (letter) of support from municipal and school executive or legislative body (e.g. city/town council, board of aldermen, board of selectmen, school board) with authority to enter into a binding agreement. Support includes commitments to both initial funding for reimbursed expenses as well as future maintenance for infrastructure improvements. (5 points)
- d. Parental support as reflected by surveys coordinated by the planning task force in the evaluation process. (5 points)
- e. Letters of support from educational community groups such as PTA/PTO. (5 points)

f. Letters of support from local, regional or statewide biking and walking organizations as well as other interested advocacy groups. (5 points)

3. Disadvantaged communities. Applications that address "Objective #2: Make the Program Accessible to Diverse Participants." (See the funding guidelines for details) (20 bonus points.)

Startup funding: Schools and communities in the preliminary phases of SRTS planning and organizing may apply for funding by submitting a budget for expenses associated with start-up. This includes, but is not limited to, conducting surveys, preparing a travel plan, and initial education, encouragement and enforcement activities. Funds may also be used for preliminary planning of infrastructure projects. Awards will generally be limited to \$5,000, but localities may apply for larger amounts by submitted a budget for preparing a more comprehensive travel plan and non-infrastructure activities. Creation of a task force, described in 3a above shall be a prerequisite for startup funding.

Eligibility: Both public and non-public schools are eligible to participate.

Regional planning commissions, not-for-profit organizations and other public service and planning entities that are able to enter a binding contract are eligible to apply to funds for providing services directly related to the 5Es.